

## Argonaut PTA Meeting Minutes: October 7, 2009

Staff Lounge 8:45am

Attendees: Alex Chapman, JoAnn Gillespie, Anita Arun, Prathibha Tallak, Parul Samdarshi, Jennifer Guidry, Gretchen Ludwig, Pauline Chiu, Anna Sturge, Arati Nagaraj, Chenchu Raj, Maryellen Stamos, Bridget Parr

Approval of minutes

Minutes of the September 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2009 meeting were approved.

Membership Status -Chenchu Raj 8:47am

About 300 people have signed up, same as last year for the directory. Calling another additional 25-30 families to sign up. Proofing – no handwritten forms, still do formal proofing this first year. We will assume when parents fill in the info it is correct. Directory cover will be red. JDI members to cross check with directory to make sure everyone is included.

City of Saratoga Recreation Dept - Adam Henig 8:50am

Distributed flyers for various camps/classes available via Saratoga Recreation. 20-30% of classes get cancelled, so get a friend to join so to make sure classes stay open.

Community Service – Arati Nagaraj, Vinutha Mohan 9:02am

We will be doing community service for the Boys and Girls Club (serves 6-18 year old low income kids, provides preventive programs to get kids off streets & gangs.) They need books & art supplies so we will start a donation drive. Grades K-2 bring in art supplies from home, grades 3-5 bring in gently used books. Theme will be kids helping kids. For their Thanksgiving dinner, Argonaut can host the dessert table. Make dessert & help serve it for about 200 people. In March, we can do a Tibetan flag friendship theme, and invite the kids over from the Boys and Girls Club. Nothing is tagged at their facilities, and we can visit them to see what a wonderful job they did for their building, maybe we can think about a mural at Argonaut to celebrate our 50<sup>th</sup> birthday? More info on the Boys and Girls Club: [www.bgclub.org](http://www.bgclub.org)

Approval of Treasurer's Report - Pauline Chiu 9:12am

PTA has electronically approved lighting for the MPR, already ordered and paid deposit. We always rent lights every year, now we can purchase lights. Ordered one Smartboard, arrived and was damaged in shipping, so another replacement in line. 5<sup>th</sup> grade bus money was collected for science camp to Camp Campbell. However, the buses were too big for the camp site, so we had to change the size of bus and therefore cost increased. The difference was paid through the Principal's discretionary fund. Will try fundraising later to recover difference (\$579). Budget vs. Actual review of treasurer's report. Checks approved 3110 to 3126.

Ways and Means Status - Anita Arun, PrathibhaTallak 9:20am

JDI is at 50% or less from kinder & 1<sup>st</sup> grade. The rest of the grades are at over 50% contribution. 5<sup>th</sup> grade has the best overall contribution. We will be sending reminder forms to kids that have not donated. JDI is \$100 minimum per child and some parents use corporate matching to make it \$100. Since we won't get the money from corporate until the end of the year, these parents won't get recognized. Redwood Middle School gives out root beer floats to students who donated (not including corporate matching). There are reasons why parents do not donate; we need to be sensitive about that. We can do a "participation thermometer" display, showing how much we need to reach our

goal. Main issue is participation. We need more visuals for the lower grades (kinder and first). We would like participation at 70% instead of 50%. Last year was also at 50%. The budget is different for JDI and corporate matching, so we can tell how much difference corporate contribution makes.

Staff Grant – Jennifer Guidry 9:40am

Over \$10K requested from teachers, some to be reviewed in Spring to see if additional funds are available. Approve \$5996 for now. Try to do about \$1000 per grade level and approve accordingly. Need to ask for approval of another \$270 in the budget to purchase pencil sharpeners (ones that lasts). 2<sup>nd</sup> grade teachers have requested for \$1680 of science text books, \$1100 can come from the library budget. Need another \$580 for approval. We need approval to increase grant by \$850, motion approved. Mr.Chapman to check on whether the District Office can provide funds for computer lab's needs. We will review a request for an art table in Spring.

Teacher's report – Jo Ann Gillespie

Thank you to PTA for the teacher's grants. We would like to know the theme in advance for the Variety Show so we can have some time to plan it. In one month there will be the teacher's retreat, and that is a good time to plan for the Variety Show. Suggestion to do a 50<sup>th</sup> birthday bash theme, maybe a 50's flashback.

Principal's Report - Alex Chapman 9:55am

Math Olympiad: register through LGS Recreation, parent volunteers run it here. The school just provides classroom and facilities for before and after school meetings. PTA is just a processing center; we usually break even on this event. 4th and 5<sup>th</sup> grade parents cannot handle load this year, so there will be some changes. Emails to notify parents will be going out soon.

Minimum days and how it is used: in Sept. teachers trained on data management module, and student performance database sharing lessons. This month days are used for local writing assessment through the district, and teachers to enter scores of students. Nov. will be used for conference week.

Junior Achievement will be on Feb 5<sup>th</sup> next year. Bike Rodeo was a great success! Great turnout, lots of volunteers. Red Ribbon Week will be the following week –it is a national event celebrated through the use of red ribbon – our focus will be on healthy choices. Will work with our student council, decorate the campus with ribbons, provide daily messages via council, and stay within the \$250 budget with posters & ribbon. Will not mention drugs specifically. Make it a good general message. Fitkidz week has field day, jog a thon has similar message, but timing not appropriate. This should be separated. We will start on Monday, Oct. 19<sup>th</sup>.

President's Report - Gretchen Ludwig 10:10am

Communications reflections and book fair coming up during conference week, conference week lunch, school photos, any photos you have of school events please give to Parul to post to the PTA Newsletter.

Meeting adjourned at 10:11 am.

**Next PTA Meeting:  
Wednesday, November 4<sup>th</sup>, 2009 at 8:45am  
Staff Lounge**